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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST: UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Larbi DJACTA (Algeria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1994, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-ninth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/644) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/49/785 and Corr.1).

3. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 34th and 36th meetings, on 19 and 21 December 1994. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the items are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/49/SR.34 and 36).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/49/L.27

4. At the 36th meeting, on 21 December, the representative of Latvia introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon" (A/C.5/49/L.27), submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.27 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon 1/ and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 2/

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978, by which the Council established the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was Council resolution 938 (1994) of 28 July 1994,

Recalling its resolution S-8/2 of 21 April 1978 on the financing of the Force and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 48/254 of 26 May 1994,

Affirming that the costs of the Force are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Force, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such operations,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Recalling its resolution 34/9 E of 17 December 1979 and the subsequent resolutions in which it decided that the provisions of regulations 5.2 (b),

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1/ A/49/644.

2/ See A/49/785 and Corr.1.

5.2 (d), 4.3 and 4.4 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations should be suspended, the latest of which was resolution 47/205 of 22 December 1992,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions in cash have been made to the Force by a certain Government,

Concerned that the Secretary-General continues to face difficulties in meeting the obligations of the Force on a current basis, including reimbursement to current and former troop-contributing States,

Concerned also that the surplus balances in the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon have been used up for meeting expenses of the Force in order to compensate for the lack of income resulting from non-payment and late payment by Member States of their contributions and have consequently been exhausted,

1. Expresses deep concern about the adverse effect that the deteriorating financial situation has on reimbursement to troop contributors, placing an additional burden on these countries and putting at risk the continuing supply of troops to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and that this, inter alia, affects the implementation of its mandate;

2. Endorses the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; 2/

3. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

4. Urges all Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force promptly and in full;

5. Decides to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon the amount of 71,142,000 United States dollars gross (68,847,000 dollars net), authorized and apportioned by the General Assembly in paragraph 15 of its resolution 48/254 for the operation of the Force from 1 August 1994 to 31 January 1995, inclusive;

6. Decides also to appropriate to the Special Account referred to in paragraph 5 above a total amount of 67,407,000 dollars gross (65,225,000 dollars net) for the period from 1 February to 31 July 1995, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force beyond 31 January 1995 and the mandate periods to be decided upon by the Council;

7. Decides further, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion the amount referred to in paragraph 6 above among Member States in accordance with the composition of groups set out by the General Assembly in paragraphs 3 and 4 of its resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991 and 47/218 A of 23 December 1992 and its decision 48/472 A of 23 December 1993, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year

1995, 3/ subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force beyond 31 January 1995 and the mandate periods to be decided upon by the Council;

8. Decides that there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 7 above, their respective share in the estimated income of 10,000 dollars other than staff assessment income approved for the period from 1 February to 31 July 1995, inclusive;

9. Decides also that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 7 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 2,172,000 dollars approved for the period from 1 February to 31 July 1995, inclusive;

10. Authorizes the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the operation of the Force at a rate not to exceed 11,234,500 dollars gross (10,870,830 dollars net) per month for a period of up to six months beginning on 1 August 1995, should the Security Council decide to continue the Force beyond 31 July 1995, the said amount to be apportioned among Member States in accordance with the scheme set out in the present resolution;

11. Decides that the provisions of regulations 5.2 (b), 5.2 (d), 4.3 and 4.4 of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations shall be suspended in respect of the amount of 17,978,460 dollars, which otherwise would have to be surrendered pursuant to those provisions, this amount to be entered into the account referred to in the operative part of General Assembly resolution 34/9 E and held in suspense until a further decision is taken by the Assembly;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, through the Advisory Committee, a financial performance report for the Force for the period from 1 February 1994 to 31 January 1995;

13. Invites voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 43/230 of 21 December 1988, 44/192 A of 21 December 1989 and 45/258 of 3 May 1991;

14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fiftieth session under the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East" the sub-item entitled "United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon".

3/ See resolution 49/___.